

## Annual Report, 2022-2023

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For the Board of Trustees May meeting board book, I submitted six pages of highlights of my 12 years as library dean as well as some thoughts on opportunities and challenges. Below is a list of the library's major accomplishments in 2022-2023.

### I. KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2022-2023

We had an ambitious list of goals for 2022-2023, and we accomplished and/or made progress on most of them.

#### GENERAL LIBRARY Accomplishments:

- **Overall Library: Build community to increase library usage/gate count.** We have seen a very healthy increase in the number of people using the building. Given the decrease in the number of students enrolled since 2019, we are now seeing roughly the equivalent of pre-pandemic library use. From July 2022 through April 2023, we have seen large percentage increases in gate count each month over the same monthly time periods in 2021-2022 (overall 15% increase). We experienced an average 21% month-over-month increase over the last academic year. Even during the lost time due to the hurricane in September 2022, we had more library users than the previous September.

Despite our “comeback,” we have not seen enough students in the building at midnight to justify closing later, so we have not returned to our pre-COVID 2:00 a.m. closing. Should the data indicate that a critical mass of students is using the building at midnight, the library will consider moving to 1:00 a.m. closing, and then to 2:00 a.m. if the data indicates a need to do so.

- **Overall Library: Complete the library's strategic five-year strategic plan.**  
[https://www2.stetson.edu/library/green/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/1-2019\\_09\\_23-Strategic-Plan-Map-FINAL.pdf](https://www2.stetson.edu/library/green/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/1-2019_09_23-Strategic-Plan-Map-FINAL.pdf)  
We were largely successful in completing our five-year plan titled *Library Disrupted: Change by Design*. We appreciate the irony of our use of the word “disruption,” which was chosen pre-COVID and meant as a positive and innovative way of thinking about a contemporary academic library. The pandemic gave us a tough lesson in real-time disruption, but not in a good way. Despite the major impediment to forward motion that COVID became, the library's strategic plan remained the guiding force. Elements included in the plan:
  - **TEACHING AND LEARNING: Support information literacy outcomes; increase awareness of information services and collections; improve and expand the library's online presences and resources; optimize space and furniture for maximum impact; create a mix of collections that maximizes resources; create and implement a library internship.** We accomplished all these items – especially successful has been our collaboration with the QEP efforts. The pandemic accelerated our goal of putting more guides and tutorials online. We removed reference shelving on the main floor, bought

new furniture, and created more student-friendly spaces. We offered two library internships. Although not explicitly stated in our plan, we have reimagined two library faculty positions that will be filled this summer – both will align closely with our teaching, learning, and QEP support.

- ***COLLABORATION: Develop and expand targeted faculty collaborations; engage with students to support their learning and research needs; collaborate with faculty and staff to enhance experiential skill development; collaborate with Academic Affairs to ensure adequate funding; create structured library faculty and staff development.***  
Although a long-time flat budget climate did not allow us to bolster our university library budgets, we have had significant success in fundraising that has kept the library afloat financially. We continued our faculty collaborations (via librarian-academic department meetings) throughout the last five years. Our Innovation Lab partners regularly with faculty to enhance experiential learning and has established an excellent collaborative relationship with the Entrepreneurship program among others. Recent changes in personnel in both the library and the School of Business Administration have had an impact on the amount of direct collaboration we have had spring semester, and an ongoing goal will be to re-establish and re-strengthen those ties. Librarians and staff participated in a tremendous amount of online professional development opportunities during the pandemic, and we have had two series of DEI professional development activities that librarians and staff do individually and then share with the library team.
  
- ***INNOVATION: Offer access to and support emerging technologies; support innovative pedagogies; continue to build an Archives with distinctive Special Collections; create a Green Library and lessen our carbon footprint; design the library to support the neurodiverse student; seek support and funding for an Innovation Center.*** Our Innovation Lab and Archives are both busy and thriving. We regularly update the Lab with new technologies and the Archives continues to grow rapidly. Many items are created in our Lab that are curriculum and research related. Just one example: recently, a 3-D printed orchid designed by our Lab Manager was used by Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology Haleigh Ray in a presentation at the Chelsea Flower Show in London. We dedicated two new Archives spaces in recent years: the Bert Fish Room and the Jean Greenlaw Special Collections Room. We did not accomplish two of our innovation goals: we have found creating a Green Library very difficult and we realize that this must be part of a larger University initiative. We were also unable to secure funding for an Innovation Center. Given that we have a new President with new priorities, the Innovation Center concept is likely off the table for now.

- ***Overall Library: Continue our efforts to promote and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion in the library.*** <https://www2.stetson.edu/library/dupont-ball-library-diversity-equity-and-inclusion/>

As mentioned above, everyone in the library has engaged in DEI personal and professional development opportunities and we have updated our DEI goals and objectives multiple times on our website. DEI efforts, of course, will be completely successful when we no longer have to implement DEI initiatives. Success will come when DEI is baked into the University climate. The library prides itself on creating an inclusive environment and the library profession has long been a strong advocate for equity and inclusion.

- **Teaching and Lifelong Learning: Play an active role in the information literacy components of the QEP.** Librarians have played a very active role in the development and implementation of the QEP and will continue to do so.
- **Teaching and Lifelong Learning/Innovation: Continue to offer cultural credit and course-related Innovation Lab and Archives/Special Collections workshops, as well as rotating Gallery duPont exhibits.** The Innovation Lab offered five cultural credit workshops this year and hosted several class sessions. Archives offered an online exhibit on the Bert Fish Collection in the fall, but due to the lack of an Archivist during most of spring semester, the Archives did not offer additional cultural credit opportunities. Several Gallery duPont exhibits offered cultural credit opportunities.
- **Teaching and Lifelong Learning/Archives: Continue space optimization efforts including moving and organizing storage areas and opening the Greenlaw Special Collections Room.** We undertook a major reorganization of the Archives and Special Collections spaces (10 rooms throughout the library) during the spring semester, culminating in the dedication of the Greenlaw Special Collections Room in March.
- **Collaboration: Continue to nurture existing collaborative relationships with classroom faculty and expand the program beyond those departments and groups already targeted in previous years.** One additional department was targeted this year: Graduate Education. Library faculty provided a review of library resources for the department's classes and research. Additionally, online research guides to support these programs were updated and created to cover all graduate degrees granted.
- **Development: Continue to pursue funding in support of the library's mission and strategic priorities.** This fiscal year, we have raised a total of \$73,523 in cash gifts to date and have accepted about \$3,500 worth of gifts-in-kind. Our development efforts were highlighted by a Jessie Ball duPont Foundation matching campaign that raised about \$40,000 for the Archives. Our overall endowments/gift funds fell from a high of \$6.8 million in April 2022 to the current value of \$5.8 million. Most of the fall can be attributed to portfolio performance and the value is showing some recovery from a recent low of \$5.4 million in January 2023 to the current value.
- **Marketing and Social Media: Continue to build relationships with library users, engaging the Stetson community actively to promote our collections, services, spaces, and activities.** The library created and repurposed content geared toward user preferences and behavior, and posted it regularly, increasing our social media visibility and engagement. We promoted library services, events, spaces, and initiatives, responding to direct messages, comments, and mentions on all social media platforms. We increased the frequency of physical outreach on campus locations, distributing content regarding services, resources, and events to the Hand Art Center, Gillespie Museum, Writing Center, School of Music, Residential Life and Learning, the CUB, and to clubs and organizations throughout campus.
- **Facilities: Complete the first stage of the plan to create additional student study space on the main floor.** We successfully completed the periodical collection review and subsequent

withdrawals that allowed us to remove two sections of shelving that opened up a seating area outside the East Room.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (available late July 2023): For complete library annual statistical data, see: <https://www2.stetson.edu/library/about-us/library-publications/annual-reports/>

## **LIBRARY GOALS for 2023-2024**

Library Dean Sue Ryan stepped down as dean on June 30, 2023. Debbi Dinkins, Associate Dean and Interim Library Director, provided the following goals for the library in the coming academic year.

- Support learning excellence at Stetson University by continuing the library's leadership role in the university's Quality Enhancement Plan. The library will continue to offer excellent research support, extensive collections, information literacy instruction, support of innovative learning technologies, and archival collections on Stetson University and DeLand history.
- Host learning objects, research and information guides, and library navigational aids on the library's website as we transition from a WordPress format to a LibGuides CMS format.
- In continuation of library faculty and staff efforts and activities in 2022-2023, we will continue to align library operations and collections with the University's DEI initiatives by studying and sharing ideas and initiatives from other academic institutions and other organizations.
- As the current strategic plan for the duPont-Ball Library closes at the end of 2023, library faculty and staff will begin the process of constructing a strategic plan in alignment chronologically and ideologically with the President's [Strategic Plan](https://www.stetson.edu/other/strategic-planning/media/Town%20Hall%20PowerPoint.pdf) (<https://www.stetson.edu/other/strategic-planning/media/Town%20Hall%20PowerPoint.pdf>). Specific areas of the President's Plan where the duPont-Ball Library is already in alignment include Learning Excellence, Financial Transparency and Translation, and Student Engagement.